

II. AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

COMPLETE LIST OF CLAIMS THAT ARE OR HAVE BEEN BEFORE THE OFFICE AFTER ENTRANCE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE HEREIN

The following claims constitute a complete list of claims that are or have been before the office after entrance of the amendments made herein. Amendments to the claims are indicated in accord with Revised 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (which while having an effective date of July 30, 2003 the USPTO is urging to be complied with at this time). In accord with such regulation, the listing of claims set forth below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**COMPLETE LIST OF CLAIMS THAT ARE OR HAVE BEEN BEFORE THE OFFICE
AFTER ENTRANCE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE HEREIN FOLLOW NEXT
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CLAIMS 1-19 (CANCELLED)

20. (NEW) A ternary alloy of silver, copper and germanium comprising from more than 93.5 wt% to 95.5 wt% silver, from 0.5 wt% to 3 wt% germanium, 1-40 ppm of boron, optionally 0.5 wt % of any of zinc, cadmium and tin, optionally 0.1-1 wt % silicon, and the remainder, apart from impurities, copper, wherein the weight ratio of copper to germanium is from 4:1 to 3:1.

21. (NEW) The alloy of claim 20, wherein the weight ratio of copper to germanium is about 3.5:1.

22. (NEW) The alloy of claim 20, containing from 1.0 wt% to 1.5 wt% germanium.

23. (NEW) The alloy of claim 22, containing about 94.5 wt% silver, about 4.3 wt% copper, and about 1.2 wt% germanium.

24. (NEW) The alloy of claim 20, containing 5-20 ppm of boron.

25. (NEW) A finished or semi-finished shaped article of the alloy of claim 20.

26. (NEW) The article of claim 25, which is formed by casting.

27. (NEW) The article of claim 25, which is at least partly produced from sheet or strip.

28. **(NEW)** The article of claim 25, which is surface treated with an alkanethiol, alkyl thioglycollate, dialkyl sulfide or dialkyl disulfide.
29. **(NEW)** The article of claim 28, wherein the alkanethiol, alkyl thioglycollate, dialkyl sulfide or dialkyl disulfide comprise C₁₂-C₂₄ alkyl groups.
30. **(NEW)** The article of claim 28, wherein the alkanethiol or alkylthioglycollate comprise a stearyl mercaptan, cetyl mercaptan (octadecyl mercaptan), stearyl thioglycollate and/or cetyl thioglycollate.
31. **(NEW)** A method for preventing tarnish of an alloy as claimed in claim 20, comprising surface treating the alloy with an alkanethiol, alkyl thioglycollate, dialkyl sulfide or dialkyl disulfide.